

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 SY-05 MCT-02 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
/101 W

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R 281946Z JUL 78  
FM USINT HAVANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2651  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 2168

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV PINS CU AR  
SUBJ: CUBANS INVITE MONTONEROS TO WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

1. ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR FRANCISCO MOLINA SALAS INFORMS US THAT CUBANS, THROUGH INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (WHICH THEY HEAVILY, IF NOT DECISIVELY, INFLUENCE), INVITED 50 MONTONEROS TO HAVANA FOR FESTIVAL (JULY 28-AUGUST 5). ACCORDING TO MOLINA SALAS, BOTH ARGENTINE COMMUNIST PARTY (BACKED BY SOVIETS) AND WORKING-LEVEL CUBANS RECOMMENDED AGAINST INVITATION, BUT FIDEL CASTRO HIMSELF PERSONALLY APPROVED.

2. MOLINA SALAS, AS SIGNAL TO CUBANS THAT HE IS AWARE, HAS ASKED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREX) FOR EXTRA POLICE PROTECTION FOR CHANCERY IN VIEW OF MONTONERO ARRIVAL. HE WILL ALSO SEEK APPOINTMENT SOON TO REGISTER COMPLAINT. LATEST INVITATION COMES AFTER SERIES OF INCIDENTS, COMPLAINED ABOUT BY ARGENTINES TO MINREX, IN WHICH HAVANA RESIDENT MONTONEROS HAVE PLACED FLOWERS ON SAN MARTIN MONUMENT HERE.

3. BEGIN COMMENT: IN HIS MAJOR ADDRESS ON JULY 26, FIDEL CASTRO REFERRED TO ARGENTINA AS ONE OF "INTIMATE ALLIES" OF US PRACTICING  
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GENOCIDE AND TORTURE. POLITBURO MEMBER GUILLERMO GARCIA, AT YUGOSLAV PARTY CONGRESS AT END OF JUNE (SEE HAVANA 1803), ALSO SINGLED OUT ARGENTINA AS "PRO-IMPERIALIST TYRANNY". CUBAN MOVE TO INVITE MONTONEROS WOULD APPEAR TO ENCROACH ON PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CUBAN-ARGENTINE UNDERSTANDING THAT ERP AND MONTONERO TERRORISTS WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED BY CUBA. (SEE 77 HAVANA 246.)

4. CUBAN IMPROVEMENT OF TIES WITH MONTONEROS STRIKES US AS QUITE RISKY IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF LONG-TERM ARGENTINE COMMERCIAL CREDITS FOR CUBAA (SEE HAVANA 2119). PRESUMABLY, CUBANS HAVE APPRAISED ARGENTINE ECONOMIC CONDITION AS SUFFICIENTLY DESPERATE THAT GOA WILL OVERLOOK MONTONERO MOVE TO MAKE NEW LARGE SALES TO CUBA (SEE HAVANA 1073 AND A-26 DATED MAY 17, 1978). NONETHELESS, MONTONERO INCIDENT MIGHT PROVIDE INTERESTING LEVERAGE TO US, SHOULD WE BE LOOKING FOR ANY, TO PROMOTE SQUEEZE ON AVAILABILITY OF CREDIT TO CUBA FROM ARGENTINA.

5. MOLINA SALAS INTERPRETS CASTRO DECISION ON MONTONERO INVITATION AS EFFORT BY CUBAN LEADER TO DISPLAY HIS REVOLUTIONARY ZEAL AGAINST OPPOSITON OF MORE CONSERVATIVE SOVIETS AND ARGENTINE CP. WHILE UNABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY THIS, ACTION CORRESPONDS WITH THE ULTRA-REVOLUTIONARY TONE, THE BROAD-BRUSH CONDEMNATION OF DISAGREEING STATES IN THEIR WORLD, AND GENERAL SECTARIANISM OF CASTRO'S JULY 26 REMARKS. THIS COMES AT SAME TIME THAT BREZHNEV, IN HIS MESSAGE TO PARTICIPANTS OF HAVANA YOUTH FESTIVAL, IS ACCENTUATING "UNITED FRONT" EFFORT IN WHICH "YOUTHS OF DIVERSE POLITICAL CONVICTIONS AND PHILOSOPHICAL POINTS OF VIEW" CAN "UNITE THEIR EFFORTS". END COMMENT.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014